

FRENCH CITIZENS TO MRS. LINCOLN

DRAWING 21

MEDALLIONS

71.2004.025.05054

Medals and Medallions

French Citizens to Mary Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

200
War Department
Washington City,

March 13th 1864

Sir :

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a bronze fac-simile of the medal which was prepared by citizens of France for Mrs Lincoln, in honor of her deceased husband, the late President Lincoln, and as a testimonial of sympathy with the American people in their bereavement; together with your letter of the 1st instant, for the French Committee, offering the same for my acceptance.

I beg to return, through you, my thanks to the Committee for the medal, with

E. Bayliss, Esq

No 57 Beaver Street

New York City.

the assurance that I have pleasure in possessing
it as a memento of the great man in whose hon-
or it was struck, and as a token of the respect
in which he was held by enlightened men in
foreign countries, and their regret and sympathy
for his loss.

Very respectfully,

your obedient servant,

Edwin M Stanton
Secretary of War.

May 7 - 1928

$$7 = 428$$

Mrs. Adams,

De la science possédant les secrets dont jouit l'Amérique
civilisée, et non pas par millions, mais par millions qui se
sont complus avec nous les administrations de Surcouf, et les
partisans d'immense aux quelles il vena sa vie, et que sa
mal a consacré.

Les membres du Comité,

(Faint handwritten notes, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side)

"We are entrusted with offering to you the medal struck in honor of the great and virtuous man whose name you bear, on behalf of more than 40,000 citizens of France, desirous of conveying their sympathy for the American Union, in the person of one of its most noble and pure representatives.

"Be good enough to accept, Madam, the homage of our profound respect."

NUMISMATICS



The French-Swiss Medal

By HERBERT WAYNE WALKER

EDITOR'S NOTE—*Mr. Walker, author of this article has, it is said, one of the largest collections of Lincoln medals in the State of Ohio.*

ONE of the rarest and the most historically interesting medals ever dedicated to the Great Emancipator was what is known as the French-Swiss medal.

Upon the obverse there appears a nude bearded bust of Lincoln facing to the left. A circular inscription surrounds the bust. "Dedie Par La Democratie Francaise A. Lincoln President Deux Fois Elu Des Etats Unis." Below the bust, in small letters, the die-sinker's name, "Franky Magniadas."

Upon the reverse there appears a winged figure of Hope standing on the left with a wreath in her hand, her right hand resting on an anchor. At the right of the monu-

ment two negroes are standing: one resting on a musket, raises his hand toward the arms of the United States displayed radiant beneath two rows of thirty-seven stars. A streamer bearing the motto, "E Pluribus Unum," supports the eagle below. The triangle cap of the monument bears a plummet and cypress branch. On the large central tablet is the inscription, "Lincoln L'Honnete Homme Abolit L'Esclavage Re-tablit L'Union, Sauva La Republique Sans Voiler La Statue De La Liberte Il Fut Assassiné Le 14 Avril 1865." In the background, a steamship, locomotive, a ballot-box marked "Vote" and a bale marked "VI."

A cactus and small plants are at the base of the monument. Below, in small letters, the die-sinker's name, "Franky Magniadas," and in large letters the national motto of France, "Liberte Egalite Fraternite."

A solid gold specimen of this medal was presented to the widow of Abraham Lincoln by a committee representing forty thousand French citizens, who desired through this medal to express their sympathy for the American Union and one of its most illustrious representatives. This particular specimen now reposes in the Congressional Library in Washington, D. C., to which it was presented by the late Robert Todd Lincoln. The funds were raised by popular subscription, and were limited to two sous for each person. Inasmuch as the inscription on the medal speaks of the French

Democracy, it did not appeal to the Emperor Napoleon III, and he would not allow the medal to be struck in France. After some delay the dies were sent to Switzerland where the medals were struck. Hence it received its name, the French-Swiss medal.

This is one of the rarest of all Lincoln medals, and is the rarest specimen which the author possesses. A former President of the American Numismatic Association reported that a specimen of this medal was the most interesting rarity which he was able to purchase on a numismatic trip through Europe. The medal is noted for its artistic beauty and the thought which inspired it, and joins three nations in the honor of the great American whose birthday this month we celebrate.

Abraham Lincoln in Medals and Currency

By ROLLO E. GILMORE

WE celebrate this month the birthday of our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln, who was born on February 12th, 1809, assassinated on April 14, 1865 and died the following day. He was nominated the Republican candidate for president in 1860 in the "Wigwam" in Chicago, later elected and served from 1861-5.

Medals of Lincoln are many, and these contain the portrait of "Honest Abe" in many designs. A representative collection of these will tell the life story of Lincoln from the time he was born in the log cabin until his assassination by Booth. The inscriptions on these medals, contain such sentences and mottoes as the following: "The Rail Splitter 1830," "The Great Rail Splitter of the West," etc., surrounded by a rail; "Lincoln,—Wide Awake," "Abraham Lincoln—Free Land, Free Speech, Free Men," "Honest Abe of the West, Wide Awake," "The People's Choice for President," "Ab'm Lincoln, An Honest Man," "The Crisis Demands His

Re-election, 1864," "Abraham Lincoln, Freedom, Justice, Truth, 1865," "The Right Man in the Right Place," "Abraham Lincoln, President of U. S., died April 16, 1865, by the hands of a rebel Assassin," "Government for the People, By the People," "With Malice toward none, with Charity for All, Feb. 12, 1809," "Father, Savior and Defender," (The Saviour referring to Lincoln); "Abraham Lincoln did not show the White Feather," "Hannibal of America," "A foe to traitors," "No Compromise with Armed Rebels," "Assassinated by the plotters of treason, Martyr for Liberty," "Freedom national, slavery, sentinel," "The man that can split rails or guide the ship of State," "Free homes for Free Men."

A Lincoln Indian peace medal bears the date 1862 and wording, "Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States" and bust portrait, and on reverse shows Indians plowing, etc. One small gold medal contains portraits of Lincoln and Garfield. Some silver medals portray Lincoln and Grant, another Lincoln and Garfield, Lincoln-Broken column, also Washington and Lincoln.

In 1864, Lincoln was re-elected president over General George B. McClellan. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House five days before Abe Lincoln was



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M. H. BOLENDER

ORANGEVILLE

ILLINOIS
fl

fatally wounded by John Wilkes Booth. One medal reads, "Abraham Lincoln 1809-proclamation signed January 1, 1863."

Paper money was first issued by the U. S. Government during Lincoln's administration in the early years of the Civil War. General Francis Elias Spinner, Jr., was then the Secretary of the Treasury and his peculiar signature, "F. E. Spinner, Jr.," will be found on the paper money of 1862 and 1869, as well as on the majority of the fractional currency notes known as "Shin-Plasters," "Wildcats," "Red-Dogs," "Stump-Tails," etc. The

triple pointed pen designed by himself, permitted him to bring the extra pressure to make the heavy lines seen in all these notes.

A pattern of a five cent piece with bust of Lincoln was submitted in 1866 but was not favorably received, due to prejudice against use of portraits on our coins. The commemorative half dollar issued in 1918 for the centennial of Illinois or 110th anniversary of the State's admission to the Union, has the bust of Lincoln, which was modeled by Geo. T. Morgan.

George Washington Medals and Coins

By ROLLO E. GILMORE

THIS year we celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of the first president of the United States. In commemoration of Washington's birth, a handsome commemorative medal has been issued by the George Washington Bicentennial Commission, designed by Mrs. Laura Gardin Fraser, sculptress of New York, and produced in the U. S. Mint. This official bicentennial medal depicts on the obverse a side bust picture of Washington with the date 1732-1932. On the reverse a symbolic figure of Liberty and the inscription "Proclaim Liberty throughout the Land."

Washington Medals are desirable in any medalic art collection but they are comparatively rare as well as are the coins which bear his likeness: The majority of medals of Washington show him when he was over sixty years of age. Some of the Washington medals are as follows:

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THE FAIRWAY

610-2 F St., N. W. Washington, 12, D. C.

"Washington and Independence, July 4, 1776," "Oath of Allegiance," "Washington Before Boston," rev. Washington on Horseback on Boston Heights, Washington, siege of Boston, 1775, depicts Washington on horseback; Washington, Evacuation of Boston, obverse, bust rev., Washington with four officers, on horseback, the British embarking in boats in Boston Harbor by Du Vivier; "Cabinet Medal," "Time Increases his Fame," "Memorial of the Washington Cabinet," "The Father of His Country," "Headquarters of Washington," "General of American Armies," "George Washington, Born Virginia," known as the Manly medal. A rare medal of Washington shows a portrait of him with a large triangular hat and in military uniform, dated 1778, and the words "George Washington-Valley Forge." One of the Washington Indian peace medals in pewter was issued by B. Mead, D.S. St. Louis. On the obverse appears "The Father of His Country," "George Washington" with his bust and on the reverse "Peace and Friendship—1843." A small gold medal portrays Washington and Jackson. Some silver medals portray Washington and Lincoln, another Washington and Grant. Washington was inaugurated as the first president of the United States on April 30, 1789 and there are many types of medals of 1889 celebrating the hundredth anniversary of his inauguration. An attractive medal of Washington issued in New York City in 1889 during the inaugural centennial, bears

Encl. 1/2

ADELINE ROBERTS
AUTOGRAPHS OF FAMOUS PERSONS
44 WEST 9TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Dec. 24, 1934.

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,
Librarian,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I have mailed you under separate cover a few of
my late lists.

I am quoting below three items that I think may be
of particular interest to you.

A Lincoln medal in bronze. Bust on obverse side with
inscription in French stating it was dedicated by
the French Democracy. Inscription on back to the
effect that Lincoln abolished slavery, etc. The
dies for the medal were made in France to be presented
by the French Democrats to Mrs. Lincoln. The Emperor
would not allow the medal to be cast. The Gold medal
cast was sent to Mrs. Lincoln. It is stated that five
bronze medals only were cast in later years in Boston.
The price is \$50.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
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Number 644

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

August 11, 1941

COLLECTING MEDALLIC LINCOLNIANA

Very little attention has been given in Lincoln Lore to the hobby of the numismatist, who is interested in gathering old coins and various types of tokens made of metal. It is a well recognized fact that Abraham Lincoln has been more often portrayed in medallic art than any other historical character, with the possible exception of Washington.

A recent acquisition by The Lincoln National Life Foundation of a large collection of Lincoln medallions and medals has created at the museum a new interest in this phase of Lincolniana, and there are now on display over 400 individual pieces. This collection does not include the larger pieces such as plaques and busts, or the Lincoln coin collection.

The first man to properly catalogue Lincoln medals was Andrew T. Zabriskie, who in 1873 described 187 medals bearing the likeness of Lincoln which he had acquired up to that time. It was not until February 1924 that an exhaustive list of Lincoln medals appeared and this was supplemented in April 1927 and in August 1933. All three of these lists were by Robert T. King and were published in the *Numismatist Magazine* during the months already mentioned. Altogether, there were 1,047 different items listed.

Mr. King groups this large collection of medals under the following captions: Politicals, First Campaign; Politicals, Second Campaign; Ferrotypes of Both Campaigns; Medals of the Civil War; Civil War Tokens; Emancipation; Mortuary Medals and in Commemoration of His Death; Lincoln Centennial Issues; Medals of the G. A. R. Encampments, Sons of Veterans, Womans Relief Corps, etc.; Masonic; Miscellaneous Conventions and Anniversaries; Medals of Award by Schools, Newspapers, etc.; Medals Struck at Expositions and in Commemoration Thereof; Medals and Coins Issued by the U. S. Mint not Otherwise Attributed; Store Cards, Street Car Checks, Key Chains and Shop Badges; Souvenir Pennies of Cities, Towns, etc.; Encased Lincoln Cents; Medals, Plaques, Shells, Fobs and Pins, Mounted and Otherwise; Miscellaneous.

Possibly the most important consideration in identifying a medal is determining the size, which is specified by the metric measure which consists of a fraction more than 25 m.m. to the inch. In the language of the numismatist, the head of a coin is called the obverse side and the tail, the reverse side. The kind of metal from which the medallion is made is also indicated, the most common substances being gold, silver, aluminum, bronze, copper, brass, zinc, lead, tin, iron, as well as plated metals. A very complete description is given by Mr. King so that one has little difficulty in determining whether or not he may have the coins specified.

No. 1, the first item described by Mr. King, is a blunt five pointed, star-shaped metal badge worn as a hat ornament by the Hartford Wide-Awakes in 1860. Surrounding the bust of Lincoln is the name "Abraham Lincoln" and in a circular design around the bust and name, appearing at the top, is the word "Wide-Awake." This star is 70 m.m. in diameter. It sold at an auction sale 60 years ago for \$42.00.

Possibly the most valuable medallion in the Foundation collection is what is known as the United States Mint Medallion. One copy owned by the Foundation is silver, another of the same design is in white metal. The silver issues are known as the Indian Chief medals and were often presented to the Indian Chiefs as good will tokens. A hole has been drilled in the silver medal owned by the Foundation indicating that it was likely worn by some Indian upon presentation from "the great white father, Lincoln."

One of the most ingenious inscriptions appears on a medallion of 70 m.m. and in a circular space of 62 m.m. in diameter the entire Gettysburg address is inscribed.

There is in the Foundation collection several miniature medals. One, but 10 m.m. in diameter, is a seven sided planchet with beveled edges. There are six of these in the collection, aluminum, bronze, copper, nickel, silver and lead. The bust of Lincoln which appears on this miniature medal is less than 5 m.m. in diameter.

Nearly every boy is familiar with what the numismatist call the encased Lincoln cent. Usually an imitation aluminum horseshoe container with the shining one cent piece encased in it carries the inscription "I bring good luck" or "Don't go broke."

There is also a very large variation of the large copper replica of the penny, 70 m.m. or over in diameter and usually it is inscribed with the words "lucky penny." These souvenir pennies have imprinted on the reverse side the name of the city where the penny is to be distributed. This makes about as many variants as there are cities in the North at least.

The most valuable Lincoln medal from the viewpoint of the book collector is the Lincoln Centennial Medal by Roine made in silver which is mounted artistically on board and bound in a book of 70 pages. The edition is limited to 100 signed and numbered copies. The Foundation is fortunate in having this edition as well as the one in bronze. Also a later and smaller medal by Roine was also encased in a book and widely distributed.

Possibly one of the most valuable medals of Lincoln, as well as one of the most beautiful medallic memorials ever made served as a tribute to Abraham Lincoln from 40,000 French people. The gifts financing the medal were limited to two cents to each person. The gold medal struck in Switzerland was sent to Mrs. Lincoln shortly after Mr. Lincoln's death in honor of the martyred president. The following letter accompanied the medal:

"Paris, October 13, 1866.

"Madam: We have been charged with the duty of presenting to you the medal in honor of the great and honest man whose name you bear, and which forty thousand French citizens have caused to be struck, with a desire to express their sympathy for the American Union, in the person of one of its most illustrious and purest representatives. If France possessed the liberty enjoyed by Republican America, we would number with us not merely thousands but millions of the admirers of Lincoln, and of the partisans of those opinions to which he devoted his life, and which are consecrated by his death. Please accept, Madam, the homage of our profound respect. Signed by the members of the committee."

LINCOLN LORE

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Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

September 12, 1949

FIVE RARITIES IN LINCOLN NUMISMATICS

Little occasion is offered in Lincoln Lore to discuss medallions featuring Abraham Lincoln but there is little doubt with reference to whose likeness has most often appeared on medals in the history of American numismatics. The Lincoln National Life Foundation has over 1200 separate pieces, all different, bearing the profile of Lincoln and catalogued under the King arrangement. It would appear to be of interest to note five rarities in the Foundation collection. However, one of them is a bronze instead of the gold one mentioned in the text.

Presidential Silver Peace Medal

One of the customs of long practice in relation to the Presidents of the United States with the Indians, was the presentation to Indian chiefs of medals bearing the likeness of each newly inaugurated President. They were primarily expressions of good will and apparently were cherished by the recipients. Executive document No. 47 in the House of Representatives dated February 2, 1865, and entitled "Medals for Indian Chiefs" asks for an appropriation for \$5,000 "to provide for the usual distribution of medals to the Indians." It also stated that, "In the year 1861 a fund of five thousand dollars was provided for this purpose. The medals purchased with that appropriation have been for some time exhausted."

The medallions struck in silver were to be presented to "leading and influential Indian chiefs." A copy in the Foundation collection is pierced with a hole enabling the chief who once owned it to suspend it from a necklace as it was usually worn on the breast. The obverse side reveals a portrait of Lincoln looking to the left with the inscription "Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States." It also bears the date "1862." The reverse side depicts an Indian plowing in contrast to two Indians, the one scalping the other. The sculptor's name "S. Ellis" appears on the medal and it was made in two sizes, 77 mm and 63 mm.

French-Swiss Gold Medal

Students of numismatics would agree that the most valuable Lincoln medal ever struck from a die is the French-Swiss gold medallion presented to Mrs. Abraham Lincoln after the assassination of her husband. Shortly after the death of Lincoln a subscription list was circulated among the democratic constituency in France. A maximum limit of two sous per capita was set which allowed forty thousand French citizens to participate in the memorial gift. A letter of presentation accompanied the medallion, signed by twenty outstanding Frenchmen, with Victor Hugo, the concluding signer.

The obverse side of the medallion portrays a profile of Lincoln facing to the right with the inscription in French "Dedie Par La Democratie Francaise A. Lincoln President Deux Fois Elu Des Etats-Unis." The reverse side presents a female figure, Hope, who extends a wreath to two slaves. Many other symbols embellish the background with a tablet inscribed, "Lincoln L'Honnete Homme Abolit L'Esclavage Retablit L'Union, Sauva La Republique Sans Voiler La Statue De La Liberte Il Fut Assasine Le 14 Avril 1865." The piece of gold is 83 mm in diameter.

Objection of Emperor Napoleon III to have the democratic memorial struck in France caused the dies to be sent to Switzerland where the work was done, and which

caused it to be known as the French-Swiss medal. The name of the die-sinker "Franky Magniadas" appears on both sides of the medal. Robert Lincoln, son of Mary Todd Lincoln presented this memorial piece to the Library of Congress. The Foundation is fortunate to have a copy from the same dies struck off in bronze.

A.M.A.S. White Metal Medallion

Shortly after the death of President Lincoln the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society resolved that a medal "creditable alike to its distinguished subject and to the society should be struck." Mr. Emil Sigle, the sculptor cut the dies of "unusual thickness and great relief" so that only sixteen impressions in white metal had been struck before the dies broke. This inscription on the sixteen original medals identifies them; "Emil Sigle Fecit."

The portrait of Lincoln looking right with the inscription "Salvator-Patriae" is on the obverse side while the reverse side within a wreath there is inscribed these words, "In Memory of the Acts and Death of Abraham Lincoln. Born February 12, 1809. Died April 15, 1865." Other dies were prepared and later copies were struck on planchets already cast, to relieve the pressure on the dies. These medallions were at least 5 mm thick and 83 mm in diameter.

Chicago Sanitary Fair Bronze Metal

A memorial medallion issued by the Chicago Sanitary Fair at Chicago in 1865 presents a strange coincident. In the die for the obverse side of the medal a slight crack developed which is distinguishable in most of the medallions. It extends from the base of the brain to the right eye following almost identically the same course of the bullet fired by Booth. The obverse side in addition to the profile of Lincoln facing right carries this inscription above the figure, "Memoria in Aeterna" and this inscription "Abraham Lincoln." Also under the bust is the name of the die-sinker "Paquet F." The bronze medal is 57½ mm in diameter and 500 of them were struck off.

Roiné Centennial Silver Medal

The Lincoln Centennial observances in 1909 were responsible for the appearance of a large number of medals bearing that date. *The Numismatist* magazine for February 1924 lists 105 different specimens for which dies were used in the striking of Lincoln centennial medals for that year. The most desirable one from the viewpoint of the collector is the Roiné Silver Medal encased in a book of seventy pages and limited to 100 numbered copies. There was also an edition published in bronze.

A statement issued with the preliminary announcement of the medal advises one that "on the 12th of February 1909 the dies of the medal are to be cancelled and then deposited in the collection of the American Numismatic Society." The obverse side shows a profile of Lincoln looking to the left with the inscription "1809" and "1865". The reverse side contains an ornamental wreath in which there is inscribed, "Liberator Emancipation Proclamation signed January first 1864." Under this inscription a facsimile signature "Abraham Lincoln" appears. Under the wreath the date "1909" is inscribed and the words "Centennial Commemoration." The sculptor was Edouard J. Roiné of Paris and his medallion measures 63 mm in diameter.

THE FORGOTTEN MEDAL OF GOLD

(The following article appeared in the October, 1919, issue of CARGOES a publication of the Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company. It is republished here by their kind permission.)

The word Liberty means different things to different people; but whatever their personal interpretation of the word may be, the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor is the symbol of the hopes and prayers of freedom-loving people the world over.

The following is a brief story of the pure idealism, the personal ambition, and the sympathy and friendship of the French people that lay behind the Statue's conception. Most of the people and events mentioned in the story have long since been forgotten; but today the goddess herself has a finer and deeper meaning than at any time since she first held high her torch of freedom for all the world to see.

The story of the Statue of Liberty begins with the impact on the French people of Abraham Lincoln's death in the spring of 1865. At that time France was a nation of mixed political emotions. Napoleon III ruled as Emperor, surrounded by a powerful group of old-school imperialists. At the same time there were large numbers of radicals and revolutionaries, as well as an influential group of "intellectual liberals" and others of liberal views, who cherished the idea of freedom and hoped for the orderly overthrow of the monarchy.

But beyond all these well-defined political classes were vast numbers of obscure and unhappy French citizens—many of whom did not even know that they were "liberals"—who yearned for a republican France with a common inner urge. To them Abraham Lincoln was the embodiment of freedom and justice. And when Lincoln's death was announced in that spring of 1865, they were the ones who took the news as a personal tragedy and wrote grief-stricken letters to Minister John Bigelow at the American Legation in Paris.

As the weeks passed and expressions of sorrow continued to pour in, the nucleus of an idea gradually took shape, although the idea itself was not born for several years. Perhaps the first trace of it was contained in a letter Bigelow received from a group of young students:

"In President Lincoln we mourn a fellow citizen—for no country is now inaccessible, and we consider as ours that country where there are neither masters nor slaves, where every man is free or fighting to become free. . . . We young people to whom the future belongs must have the courage to found a true democracy, and we shall have to look beyond the ocean to learn how a people who have made themselves free can preserve their freedom."

And then not long after this message was sent to the Legation, a provincial newspaper—*Le Phare de la Loire*—suggested that a collection be taken up in France for a gold medal for Mrs. Lincoln. No one was to contribute more than two cents, for the expression of sympathy was to be truly that of the people of France.

No sooner had the newspaper come off the press than everyone in the town was talking about the idea and contributing his share. Word of the undertaking spread into the countryside and into the cities and finally throughout France, and more contributions poured in. The emotions of the 40,000 citizens who contributed were later expressed to

Minister Bigelow in these words by the young journalist who conceived the idea: "Tell Mrs. Lincoln," he said, "that in this little box lies the heart of France."



THE FRENCH-SWITZERLAND LINCOLN MEDAL

On the reverse side, Hope stands on the left with a wreath in one hand, while two negroes stand on the right, one pointing to the arms of the United States and the other to Hope. The French Government, under "Napoleon the Little," threw every obstacle in the way of the success of the undertaking. The medal is three-eighths of an inch thick and three and one-half inches in diameter.

On the medal* was an inscription containing a phrase that one day would be known the world over—a phrase that was engraved on a forgotten medal of gold. The inscription read, in part:

"Dedicated by French democracy to Lincoln, twice-elected President of the United States—honest Lincoln who abolished slavery, reestablished the Union, and saved the Republic, without veiling the statue of liberty."

Without veiling the statue of liberty. . . .

In midsummer of that same year, Edouard Rene Lefebvre de Laboulaye—professor of law, author, and leading intellectual liberal of France—had some distinguished guests in the drawing room of his home in Glatigny, a village on the outskirts of Versailles. Among them was F. Auguste Bartholdi, a prominent young sculptor.

Laboulaye was talking about the traditional bond of friendship and sympathy between liberty-loving America and liberty-seeking France—a bond based upon Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness in 1776, and Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite in 1789.

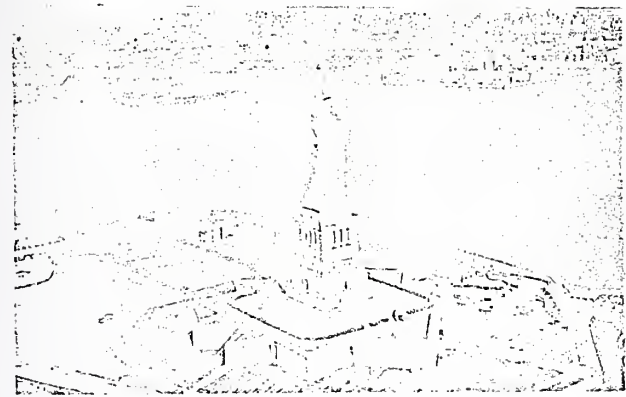
"There," he said, "you have the basis of American feeling for the French—an indestructible basis. The feeling honors the Americans as well as us, and if a monument should rise in the United States, as a

*The French-Switzerland Lincoln medal, as it is known among collectors, was subsequently presented to the nation by Robert Lincoln and is now in the Library of Congress. It was struck in Switzerland because of Napoleon's opposition to the entire project.

One word doubtless stood out above all others in Bartholdi's mind: Monument. For monuments were making the young sculptor famous — colossal statues, for the most part — and certainly any monument that might be erected to commemorate international friendship would have to be gigantic.

Six years later — in the spring of 1871 — M. Laboulaye was again entertaining guests, and again Sculptor Bartholdi was there. The Second Empire had been overthrown the previous September and the liberals had established a government under Laboulaye's good friend Adolphe Thiers. The conversation inevitably turned to America, and then to the political debt each country owed to the other — France for help during the Franco-Prussian War just ending, and America for help during the War for Independence.

Someone casually mentioned the Lincoln medal, and probably for the first time Bartholdi heard a part of the inscription — "Dedicated by French democracy . . . without veiling the statue of liberty."



THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

In her right hand she holds the torch, while in her left arm is a tablet bearing the date July 4, 1776. At her feet, seldom noticed by the public, lies a broken shackle.

A statue of liberty . . . a monument dedicated to the independence of America. . . .

M. Bartholdi spoke up. The Centennial of American independence was soon to be celebrated, he said. Might it not be appropriate for the people of France to offer the Americans a monumental statue — a statue of Liberty?

have wondered to what extent personal emotion inspired the suggestion, but they nevertheless knew that if Bartholdi's project were carried to completion, the resulting monument attesting the friendliness of two great nations would strengthen the tie between them and help to insure America's lasting good-will. And France had great need of that.

So Bartholdi was commissioned to go to the United States and talk with some of the more prominent publishers, artists and political leaders there about the plan.

He sailed on June 8, 1871 — and as he entered New York Harbor thirteen days later, Bartholdi suddenly understood the meaning of liberty as it applied to the New World. Profoundly moved, he began to sketch what he saw — and in the center of the sketch there was a pedestal, surmounted by a goddess holding a torch.

It was Liberty Enlightening the World.

Auguste Bartholdi returned home in January of 1872 after receiving encouragement from many prominent Americans. In 1875, after the French Constitution had been adopted and the Third French Republic established, the Franco-American Union was formed to raise money for the statue by popular subscription. In that same year Bartholdi completed his original model, and in 1876 — the year in which the monument was to have been presented — the completed right arm and torch were exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and later at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

It had been agreed that the French people would provide the funds for the statue itself, and that the people of the United States would pay for construction of the supporting pedestal. But collections were slow from the start in both countries, and it was not until July 4, 1884, that the Statue of Liberty was presented in Paris to American Ambassador Levi P. Morton,* and not until October 28, 1886, that the completed memorial on Bedloe's Island was accepted on behalf of the American people by President Grover Cleveland.

On that day Auguste Bartholdi, standing high in the Statue's torch, pulled the cord that removed the flag of France from the face of the Statue of Liberty — 21 years after the people of France had coined that phrase on a forgotten medal of gold.

*A trustee of Atlantic Mutual Insurance Co. from 1895 to 1904.

For much of the source material as well as for brief quotes used in the preparation of *The Forgotten Medal of Gold* we are indebted to Hertha Pauli and E. B. Ashton, authors of *I Lift My Lamp* (copyright 1918 by the authors, published by Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc.). We also wish to record our sincere thanks to Dr. Louis A. Warren, director of The Lincoln National Life Foundation; Charles Carey, acting head curator of the Department of History, Smithsonian Institution; and Mark Kiley, librarian of The University Club, New York, for their help in supplying some little-known facts which appear in the story.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

JANUARY 14, 1952

PRESENTATION MEDALS

It is amazing how current events channel our thinking for the moment in parallel grooves and bring to the surface forgotten incidents of the past. No saga of the sea for many moons has so gripped the attention of the whole world as the heroic but losing battle waged by Captain Kurt Carlsen of the American freighter, Flying Enterprise. After an heroic deed is ventured one often hears the expression, "He deserves a medal." Lloyds of London, the insurance underwriters, presented one to Capt. Carlsen.

Capt. David Jones Medal

Several years ago an English woman by the name of Mrs. Lewis Jones wrote the Lincoln Life Foundation about a silver medal in her possession which seems likely to have been a token presentation by President Lincoln to her father-in-law, David Jones. The medal bears the inscription: "The President of the United States to Capt. David Jones of the Brig Mary Ann for his rescue of the crew of the American ship Cornelia 1861." On one side there is displayed an American eagle and on the other side a storm scene is pictured with a lighthouse, at the base of which one man is assisting another out of the angry waves. The medal $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter is set in a case which bears on it the same dedication as appears on the medal. The dye maker's inscription is as follows: "LEUTZE DEL ELLIS & CO." A further notation indicates that the ship Cornelia was from Portland, Maine. While there is a possibility that the medal was awarded by President Buchanan, who served until March 4, 1861, there is a tradition in the family that the name of the chief executive who made the presentation was Lincoln.

The Foundation has not succeeded in confirming the incident by the discovery of official papers relating to the presentation, but inasmuch as the story of the Flying Enterprise and its brave captain has aroused a new interest in seafaring men possibly some information about the saving of the crew of the ship Cornelia in 1861 may come to light.

Sarah Catherine Ford Medal

John A. Ford, a soldier in the Mexican War, was run out of Virginia at the beginning of hostilities because of his loyalty to the Union and was made a captain in the army upon the recommendation of Secy. Cameron. In the course of his military duties he had an occasion to talk with the President in April 1861 and took with him his seven year old daughter, Sarah Catherine Ford. During the conference the little girl is said to have found herself seated on Mr. Lincoln's knee and told the President she wished she were a soldier and bragged about what she would do. The President said he would like to fill his army with Sarah-soldiers. While seated on Mr. Lincoln's knee she made this comment which greatly pleased the President. She said, "You've got the longest legs I ever saw." Two weeks later she received a \$20.00 gold piece from the President dated 1861. It is encased in a silver maltese cross. On one of the arms of the cross is this inscription: "Presented to Sarah C. Ford by Abraham Lincoln," and on another arm, "President of the U. S. Washington, D. C. on the 24th of April 1861."

President Lincoln's Gold Medal

Abraham Lincoln had been expected to visit Philadelphia on Independence Day 1863 when he was to have

been presented with a gold medal by the Union League of that city. However, the great struggle going on at Gettysburg and Vicksburg demanded that he remain at Washington and the medal was forwarded to him. The purpose of the presentation was to give expression "to their approval of President Lincoln's conduct of the war and national affairs."

In the center of the obverse side of the medal is a shield with the words "E PLURIBUS UNUM" inscribed on it, above the shield are the words "UNION LEAGUE July 4th," on the left "1776" and on the right "1867." Below the shield the word "PHILADELPHIA" appears. On the reverse side this inscription is placed "ORGANIZED PHILADELPHIA DECEMBER 27th 1862." This medal received by the President on July 4, 1863 may have played some part in his selection of a theme which he developed in his Gettysburg Address in November. This gold medal was presented to Congressman George Dondero by the widow of Robert Lincoln.

George Robinson Medal

Nearly fifty years ago a house painter discovered on a vacant lot in San Francisco, wrapped in a newspaper, a leather case enclosing a bronze medal about three inches in diameter. The obverse side of the medal contained the profile of an unidentified man and just under it this inscription, "For his heroic conduct of the 14th of April 1865 in saving the life of the Hon. William H. Seward, then Secretary of the United States." Encircling the profile were these words, "To George Robinson, awarded by the Congress of the United States March 1, 1871." On the reverse side of the medal two men are shown locked in combat, one armed with a bowie knife.

Robinson was a Maine volunteer who had been injured and while convalescing had been detailed as nurse and guard to attend Secretary Seward who had a broken jaw and fractured leg resulting from a carriage accident. Lewis Payne delegated by John Wilkes Booth to kill Seward overpowered Robinson and was able to get to his victim and slash his throat. Robinson "succeeded in stemming the blood from Seward's severed arteries and so saved his life." Robinson was awarded the gold medal and \$5,000 by special act of Congress March 1, 1871.

The Widow Lincoln Medal

The most famous medallion associated with the Lincoln story is the gold medal presented by the citizens of France to the widow of Abraham Lincoln.

The communication to Mrs. Lincoln accompanying the medal was dated "Paris, Oct. 15, 1866" and this excerpt is copied from the letter of presentation:

"We are entrusted with offering to you the medal struck in honor of the great and virtuous man whose name you bear, on behalf of more than 40,000 citizens of France desirous of conveying their sympathy for the American Union in the person of one of its most noble and pure representatives."

The medal is $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter and on the obverse side there is a profile of Mr. Lincoln with inscription in French and on the reverse side a group of figures of appropriate memorial design. The gold medal is now preserved in the Library of Congress and a few bronze replicas were struck off, one of which is in the Foundation collection.

Gault Davis

2000 N STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

August 21, 1972

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry
The Lincoln National Life
Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

The original gold medallion given by the people of France to the widowed Mary Todd Lincoln has been found in the Library of Congress, together with a letter of transmittal signed by prominent Frenchmen of the time. The most legible famous signature, incidentally, is that of Victor Hugo.

I greatly appreciate your assistance, and hope that you can furnish me with the additional photo copies I requested.

Sincerely yours,



Gault Davis

GD/lkm

August 24, 1972

Mr. Gault Davis
2000 H Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am acknowledging your letter of August 21, 1972 as Dr. McMurtry is at the present time out of the office until the latter part of August.

We forwarded to you on August 22nd the two additional photographs of the medal given to Mary Todd Lincoln by the people of France.

Your letter will be brought to Dr. McMurtry's attention upon his return.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Mary Jane Hubler
Asst. to Dr. McMurtry

MJH:hk

file: medals - French
medal given to 100
Lincoln

MENIL FOUNDATION INC. 1519 BRANARD HOUSTON TEXAS 77006 (713) 528-1345

April 22, 1987

Ms. Ruth COOK
Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum
1300 S. Clinton St.
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

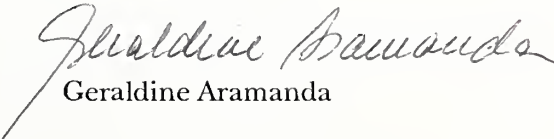
Dear Ms. Cooke,

We are most grateful to you for your help in locating the gold impression of the Magniadas Lincoln medal. We were able to find out from Mr. Jim Gilreath that it is at the present time located in the vault of the Manuscript Reading Room at the Library of Congress.

I am enclosing a copy of our brochure which gives a brief description of the scope of our research and the first two published volumes of *The Image of the Black in Western Art*, which examine the depictions of blacks in ancient and medieval Western art. The forthcoming volume, which will be published in two parts, focuses on the representations of black Africans and Afro-Americans in European and American art from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. We expect to go to press by November of this year and to have the book available in the early part of 1988. It can be ordered directly from Harvard University Press in Cambridge, Mass.

Thanking you for your valuable assistance, I am

Sincerely yours,


Geraldine Aramanda



ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

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April 28, 1987

Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.
Director, Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum
1300 South Clinton Street
P.O. Box 1110
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Dear Mark:

[REDACTED] Enclosed is the missing link you are seeking. It is a letter from Herbert Putnam, Librarian at the Library of Congress, to Mrs. Mary Harlan Lincoln. Obviously, Mary sent the medal along with two Bibles to LC in April of 1928. There should be a copy of her letter in the correspondence files of the Library of Congress discussing the deposit of the gift dated April 11, 1928.

I have been plagued by this same question. My standard response was for the patron to contact the Library of Congress. One of those who did claimed that LC had no record of the gift nor could they find the medal. I thought it strange and assumed that either the person at LC was not familiar with the collections or that the missing item was simply heresay. If, in fact, Jim Gilreath or James Hutson cannot find it, a serious problem exists for them. They should have it.

As for the numerous bronzes, I suggest the following explanation. The forty thousand subscribers paid two sous only to have Mrs. Lincoln's copy cast in gold. To my knowledge, a bronze medal was not part of the subscription. I assume, however, that a large number were minted and sold to those who wanted their own copy. Since Napoleon III opposed the striking of the gold medal in France, it became a symbol of opposition to the government. Certainly this fact had some bearing on the popularity of the bronze sales.

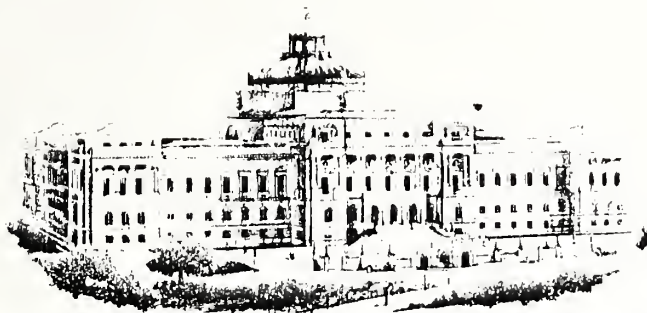
I wish I had more time for the ALA article. I have been reading the files of the Collected Works and have found some interesting stuff. Unfortunately, I doubt if I can properly work all of it into my article without more thought and effort. Fear not. I will get something to you on time.

Cordially,

Thomas F. Schwartz

TFS:cl

Enclosure



C
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

WASHINGTON

April 12 1928

My dear Mrs. Lincoln:

It is with very profound interest and inevitable emotion that I have received this morning from the hands of Mrs. Isham and Mr. Towers, accompanying her, the three articles - all relating to President Lincoln - mentioned in your note of yesterday, to wit:

Family Bible;
Bible upon which the President took his
first oath of office; and
A gold medal subscribed for by over forty
thousand French citizens commemorating
his death and sent to Mrs. Lincoln, with
the letters which accompanied it,*

which you have presented to the Library for permanent preservation here.

The custody of them will be very grateful to it, and, I am sure, gratifying to the Nation.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Albert V. Williams

Librarian

Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln
3014 N Street N.W.
Washington D. C.

*See next page.

(2) that dated Paris, December 7, 1866, to Mrs. Lincoln, signed by John Bigelow; and

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND
100 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
1916-2016

E. ...
 D. ...
 (This is U.S. Code)



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LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

1300 SOUTH CLINTON STREET / P. O. BOX 1110 / FORT VANDER BURG, ILL. 62701

MARK E. NEELY, JR.
Director

Telephone (219) 427-3864

May 18, 1987

Mr. Thomas F. Schwartz
Illinois State Historical Library
Old State Capitol
Springfield, Ill. 62701

Dear Tom:

Many thanks for your careful work on the French medal. Just yesterday, Jim Gilreath wrote again to say that they had found that Robert's widow gave L. C. the medal. Once again, there is a nice little article for a diligent researcher here; we know the French end of the story only from the propaganda put out by the medal's proponents, many of them articulate political opponents of Napoleon III. But, as you and I know all too well, more important subjects than this in the Lincoln field have gone begging for years.

Thanks, too, for the fine photographs from the tomb.

Best regards,

Mark E. Neely, Jr.

MEN/am

THE FRENCH LINCOLN MEDAL.

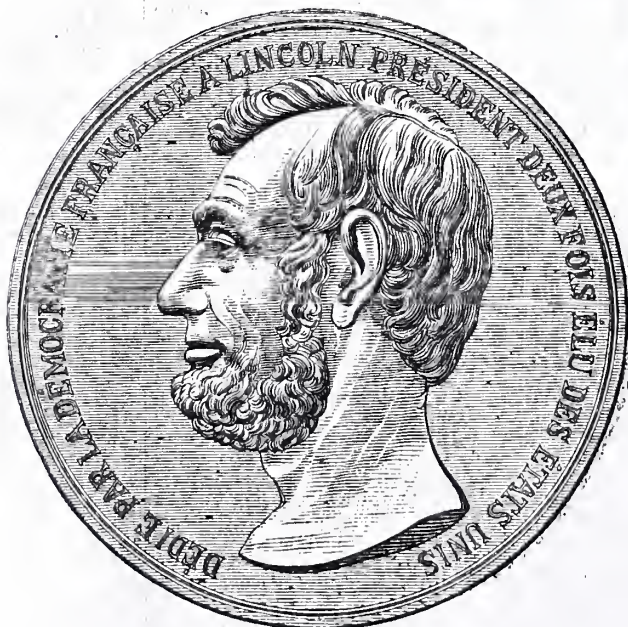
Soon after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln a subscription was opened in France, limited to two cents for each person, for the purpose of offering to Mrs. Lincoln a gold medal as a testimonial of the sympathy of the French democrats with the American people in their bereavement. The French Government threw every obstacle in the way of the success of the undertaking, prohibiting the publication of any appeal to the French people, and of the subscription list, and even forbidding the medal to be struck in France. There was, consequently, much delay in the collection of the subscriptions—forty thousand in number—and in the completion of the work, which had finally to be done in Geneva. The medal, executed by Franky-Magnianas, is three-eighths of an inch thick and three and a half inches in diameter, with a well-executed likeness of the lamented President, and the inscription: "Dédié par la Démocratie Française à Lincoln, Président deux fois élu des Etats-Unis." On the obverse is a pyramidal-shaped monument bearing the inscription: "Lincoln l'honnête homme, abolit l'Esclavage, rétablit l'Union, Sauva la République, Sans voiler la



THE LINCOLN MEDAL, PRESENTED BY THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE TO MRS. LINCOLN—REVERSE.

statue de la Liberté. Il fut Assassiné le 14 Avril, 1865." Supported on the left by a figure of Liberty placing a wreath upon the tomb; on the right a figure of a negro holding a musket and addressing a negro boy with a book under his arm, and who is offering a branch of palm. In the background are the emblems of commerce—the steamship, locomotive, etc., and above, the eagle surrounded by the stars of the States.

Some time ago, the Union League Club of New York city received a bronze impression of the medal, which was kindly placed at our disposal, enabling us to present an accurate engraving of the medal, which, in view of the appalling circumstance that gave birth to the idea, will be of interest to all friends of universal liberty.



THE LINCOLN MEDAL, PRESENTED BY THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE TO MRS. LINCOLN—OBVERSE.



Gold medallion presented by 40,000 French citizens to
Lincoln's widow.

From a Widow to a Widow

Osborne, April 29, 1865

Dear Madam:

Though a stranger to you, I cannot remain silent when so terrible a calamity has fallen upon you and your country and must personally express my *deep* and *heartfelt* sympathy with you under the shocking circumstances of your present dreadful misfortune.

No one can better *appreciate* than I can, who am myself *utterly brokenhearted* by the loss of my own beloved husband, who was the light of my life—my stay—my *all*—what your sufferings must be, and I earnestly pray that you may be supported by Him to whom alone the sorely stricken can look for comfort in this hour of heavy affliction.

With numerous expressions of true sympathy, I remain, dear Madam,

Your sincere friend,
Victoria

Jay Monaghan, DIPLOMAT IN CARPET SLIPPERS

*"Tell Mrs. Lincoln That in This Little Box Is
the Heart of France"*

With these words Eugène Pelletan, liberal French parliamentarian, presented a commemorative gold medal to John Bigelow, American Minister

to France, to be transmitted to Mrs. Lincoln. Accompanying the medal was the following message:

Madam:

On behalf of more than forty thousand French citizens, anxious to manifest their sympathies for the American Union, in the person of one of its most illustrious and purest representatives, we are instructed to offer you the medal which has been coined in honor of the great and good man whose name you bear.

If France had the freedom enjoyed by republican America, not thousands, but millions among us would have been counted as admirers of Lincoln, and believers in the opinions for which he devoted his life, and which his death has consecrated.

The medal—the cost of which was raised by popular subscription, maximum contribution two cents—was inscribed as follows:

✓ Lincoln, an honest man; abolished slavery, saved the republic, and was assassinated the 14th of April, 1865.

Dedicated by the French democracy to Lincoln, twice elected President of the United States. Liberty! Equality! Fraternity!

John Bigelow, RETROSPECTIONS OF AN ACTIVE LIFE

Paris le 13 Octobre 1866,

Madame,

Nous sommes chargés de vous offrir la médaille qui ont
fait frapper, en l'honneur du grand honnête homme
dont vous portez le nom, plus de 10,000 Citoyens
Français desirant de manifester leurs sympathies pour
l'Union Américaine, dans la personne de l'un de ses plus
illustres et de ses plus purs représentants.

Si la France possédait les libertés dont jouit l'Amérique
républicaine, ce n'est pas par milliers, mais par millions que se
feraient comptes avec nous les admirateurs de Lincoln, et les
partisans d'opinions aux quelles il voua sa vie, et que sa
mort a consacrées.

Veuillez agréer Madame, l'hommage de notre profond respect.

Les membres du Comité,

(G. Bonjean, Ch. L. Chassin, L. Greppe, Louis Trichet
Eug. Leroy, L. Kneip, C. Moisson
Albert D., J. Micheler, L. Buisson
V. Gouffaux, E. M., I. Delord, J. Pignatelli
V. Mangin, Edgar Quinet, Louis Blanc
F. Dellet, Victor Hugo)

REDUCED FACSIMILE OF THE LETTER ACCOMPANYING THE FRENCH MEDAL
SIGNED BY A COMMITTEE OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS

*Gold Medal Presented to Mrs. Lincoln in 1866 by Forty Thousand
Citizens of France*

*This medal was presented to the Library of Congress in Washington in 1928 by
the heirs of Robert T. Lincoln*



